



## Message from the Executive Director



The CIC ended the 2019 fiscal year with a full staff in a new office space. As we commence fiscal year 2020, we plan to sharpen our internal focus as we continue our legislated mandate to inspect, monitor, and report on conditions of confinement. We plan to connect in new, creative, and meaningful ways with the 4,143 residents incarcerated within Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities, and the 2,000 residents incarcerated within DC Department of Corrections (DOC)

facilities.

We have finalized negotiations with the BOP to update and continue our memorandum of understanding. We also look forward to continuing negotiations with the DOC to establish the first memorandum of understanding between the CIC and the DOC. In addition to daily operations, we are refining the focus of our impending inspections at the DOC and Hope Village. We are also thinking strategically about ways that we can reduce the time between an inspection and the final report, as well as how to make recommendations that have greater impact on the incarcerated population.

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***BOP executives and CIC board members and staff, from left to right: CIC Board Chair, Charles Thornton; CIC Program Analyst, Chrisiant Bracken; CIC Board Member, Katherine Huffman; BOP Director, Kathleen Hawk Sawyer; CIC Executive Director, Donald Isaac, Sr.; BOP Deputy Director, Thomas Kane; and BOP Assistant Director for Programs, Michael Carvajal.***

Our goal this year is to touch more District residents who are incarcerated, and concentrate on areas of the criminal justice system related to youth, women, health and wellness, and reentry services. I want to thank our community partners who have eagerly come forward to assist with our annual holiday postcard project, which is currently underway. We have received a large amount of interest, and we are grateful for the participation. Please contact our office if your organization or agency is interested in assisting our efforts to spread some kind words to those appreciative of a little holiday cheer.

*-Donald Isaac, Sr.*



### Hope Village Updates

- The ongoing controversy continues regarding whether or not Hope Village is fit to house returning offenders in Ward 8 . Recently, the facility, which is the District's only halfway house for men, received a six-month extension from the federal government to remain open despite efforts from opponents to shut it down. Learn more about the fate of Hope Village [HERE](#).

Anyone who may have useful information to guide our work for our upcoming December 2019 inspection may contact Chrisiant Bracken at [chrisiant.bracken@cic.gov](mailto:chrisiant.bracken@cic.gov).

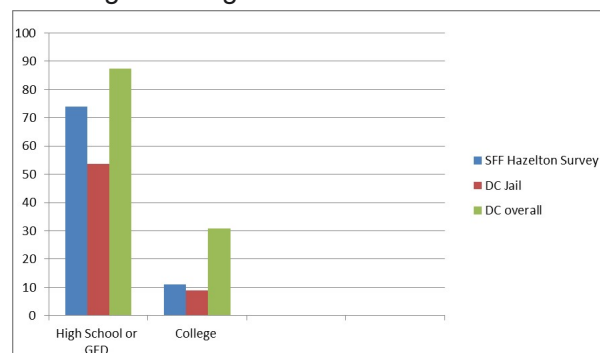
## Women's Corner: SFF Hazelton

### *Educational Attainment of DC Women in Hazelton SFF, DC Jail, and Overall*

During the site visit to SFF Hazelton in August 2019, the CIC learned that twenty of the twenty-seven women (74%) who completed our survey stated they have a high school diploma or GED. Of those, three (11.1%) reported having a college degree and eleven reported that they received their GED while incarcerated. Seven women (25.9%) reported not having a high school diploma or GED, and two women did not respond to the question.

In July 2019, the DC Department of Corrections reported that 41.5% of the women currently in their custody have a high school diploma; 12.2% achieved their GED; and 8.9% have attended college. Data is not available about the 14.6% who did not respond to the question. Click [HERE](#) for the DOC's 2019 Facts and Figures Report.

[According to the US Census Bureau](#), in the District of Columbia, 87.3% of women 25 and older (2013-2017) have a high school education or higher, which includes 30.9% who have a bachelor's degree or higher.



## Upcoming Community Events

- **The Manhood Academy**, hosted by the Black Manhood Academy on Saturday, November 9, from 11:30am to 3:30pm, at the Academy of Hope Public Charter School, 421 Alabama Avenue, SE. This event will focus on the skills needed to build sustainable families and communities. Admission is free!

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- **Webinar: Expungement “Aftercare”: What Comes Next Once the Record is Cleared?** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 2:00pm. This webinar will address how the benefits of record clearing can be maximized after an order has been granted. It will focus on policies and practices that can keep expunged and sealed cases from commercial background checks. It was also discuss steps that advocates may take to empower their clients. Register and learn more [HERE](#).
- **Welcome Home Returning Citizens**, hosted by Elder Russel Patterson Jr. on Sunday, November 24, 2019 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Free food will be provided, and the first 40 returning citizens in attendance will receive \$40! Come out to the First SDA Church: 810 Shepherd Street NW, Washington, DC 20011. Learn more about this celebration [HERE](#).

## Redemption and Reentry: What We're Reading



### Makings of a MENACE, CONTRITION of a Man

*by Halim A. Flowers*

This memoir captures the journey of a preteen coming of age in the Nation's capitol during the era when Washington, D.C. was the murder capitol of the country. From his initiation into the drug trade at the age of twelve, to his two life sentences at the age of sixteen, the words on these pages tell a tale that is both devastating and inspiring. Readers will learn the path to contrition, which Halim A. Flowers took in order to transform from a prisoner to a publisher, author, poet, blogger, college student, and at-risk youth activist.

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